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For more information, call 311 or visit nyc.gov/flu

NYC Health

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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DON'T GET COLD FEET

How to work out in the winter. 29

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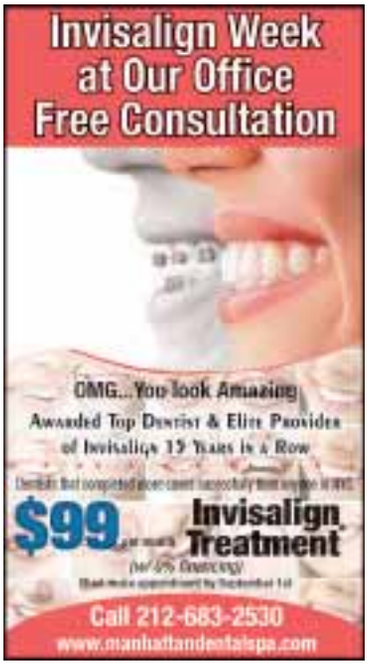
The 'new-look Knicks' still have no look. 31



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

COMEDY TAKEOVER

The New York Comedy Festival begins today, with 60 comics performing 200 shows in venues across the city. We talked to one of its biggest stars, Bridget Everett, and rounded up the best shows you can still score a seat to. 27

Take our daily news quiz to test your knowledge by going to **www.metro.us/news-quiz** to submit your answers.

1. Why did New Yorkers initially fear indoor toilets when they were introduced in the second half of the 19th century?

2. What category are the Rangers ranked top 3 in the NHL?

3. Which studly British actor is Madonna allegedly dating?

3 things you need to know

POLL: CLINTON'S LEAD SLIPS AS FBI LOOKS AT MORE EMAILS

Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead in the U.S. presidential race has narrowed slightly since the FBI said late last week it was reviewing new emails in its investigation of the former secretary of state, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Monday. Clinton had a 5 percentage point lead over Republican rival Donald Trump, according to the Oct. 26-30 survey, down from 6 percentage points posted in the five-day tracking poll last Thursday. Other polls have also shown Clinton's lead slipping over the weekend. Real Clear Politics, which averages the results of most major polls, shows that Clinton's lead has declined from 4.6 points on Friday to 2.5 points on Monday. Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey told Congress in a letter made public on Friday that his agency was looking into new emails that may be connected to Clinton. REUTERS

GE TO MERGE OIL UNIT WITH BAKER HUGHES TO CREATE SERVICE GIANT

2 General Electric Co. (GE.N) said on Monday it would merge its oil and gas business with Baker Hughes Inc (BHI.N), creating the world's second-largest oilfield services provider as competition heats up to supply more-efficient products and services to the energy industry after several years of low crude prices. The deal to create a company with $32 billion in annual revenue will combine GE's strengths in making equipment long-prized by oil producers with Baker Hughes's expertise in drilling and fracking new wells. Shares of Baker Hughes were down nearly 7 percent, a drop that executives said likely was due to the deal's complicated structure. REUTERS

US STOPPED PHILIPPINES RIFLE SALE THAT SENATOR OPPOSED

3 The U.S. State Department halted the planned sale of some 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippines' national police after Senator Ben Cardin said he would oppose it, Senate aides told Reuters on Monday. Aides said Cardin, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was reluctant for the United States to provide the weapons given concerns about human rights violations in the Philippines. The relationship between the United States and the Philippines, a long-time ally, has been complicated lately by President Rodrigo Duterte's angry reaction to criticism from Washington of his violent battle to rid the country of illegal drugs.More than 2,300 people have been killed in police operations or by suspected vigilantes in connection with the anti-narcotics campaign since Duterte took office on June 30. REUTERS

DEAN HOCHMAN/CREATIVE COMMONS

Contract negotiations of NYC school bus drivers go round and round

Teamsters and company managers pushed on toward the midnight deadline.

AMANDA MIKELBERG
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Negotiations stretched into the night Monday to avert a strike of school bus drivers who voted last week to walk off the job Nov. 1 unless their employer addresses rising health care costs and diminishing paid vacation time.

Approximately 900 bus drivers employed by Jofaz Transportation and Y&M Transit (owned by the same company), who service 600 school routes in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island said they will strike Tuesday if union officials and company management can't reach a deal on a new contract by midnight.

"Starting wages for school bus attendants aren't much higher than minimum wage," Demos Demopoulos, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 553, said in a news release. "To increase the health care costs for these workers, many of whom are single mothers, is patently unfair."

Although confident that the strike would be scuttled, the Department of Education and Mayor Bill de Blasio directed comprehensive contingency plans to get the 12,000 affected students to school. The company and the union representing the drivers both declined to comment for the story.

"While we remain hopeful that this will be resolved today, in the case that a strike does occur, we have comprehensive contingency plans in place," Department of Education representative Devora Kaye told Metro in an email.

In case of the strike, the city will provide subway cards to students and families or reimburse parents for their travel or car fare.

School bus drivers had held a month-long strike in 2013 to demand job protections from the Michael Bloomberg administration, which they failed to achieve. That strike had affected more than 100,000 students, and because the administration did not have contingency and reimbursement plans, school attendance dropped sharply in some places.

Kaye acknowledged that the difficulties encountered during the previous strike helped determine the city's action this time.

"We're committed to making sure all families have clear transportation options in case of any disruption," Kaye said.

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Hardcover goodbye: Barnes & Noble, the Bronx's only bookstore, to close

Locals are petitioning the bookseller to stay.

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GUSTAVO DEVITO/CREATIVE COMMONS

After the holidays, there will be no more leisurely leafing and coffee sipping at the Barnes & Noble at the Bay Plaza shopping complex in the Bronx. A Saks Off 5th outlet will open in its place.

The Bronx is losing its only bookstore.

A representative for the store said that their closing sale — up to 30 percent off a wide assortment of books and notions — is already underway, and that the store will shutter on Dec. 31.

Locals who are passionate about books and love Barnes & Noble are attempting to persuade corporate officers to stay or move into a smaller space in the same shopping complex.

Bronx Assemblyman Michael Benedetto is holding a petition drive in front of the store at noon on Wednesday to begin to "compile a swath of petitions to deliver to Barnes & Noble to say 'we love you, the Bronx wants you, please don't break our hearts.'"

Community action had actually worked to keep the store open. The bookstore was poised to close two years ago, but outcry, and an interventional negotiation by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. for a short-term lease, allowed the bookseller that serves the Bronx's 1.5 million population to stick around. The last independent bookstore in the Bronx, Books in the Hood, closed in 2011.

Benedetto, a former Bronx teacher, said that while he understands the reality that technology has encroached on literature, there is something special about books for kids: "You bring yourself to Barnes & Noble and you see the entire spectrum of what is available in terms of knowledge. We don't want our kids to miss out on that, to discover something they can hold in their hands and have forever."

The local Barnes & Noble opened in 1999 after then Assemblyman Steven Kaufman waged a two-year campaign to get a bookstore near his home.

"I feel terrible," Kaufman, who reads about a book a week and has purchased hundreds of books from that store, told Metro. "This was a very long, hard-fought battle to bring it into the [Bronx]. I ascribe its demise to the internet."

Jerry Welkis, president of Welco Realty, said that he's offered Barnes & Noble long-term leases at a number of other smaller locations inside and outside the mall. The "small concept" stores would be roughly half of its typical 20-25,000 square foot stores.

"Thus far they have not agreed to any of those options," Welkis told Metro.

Barnes & Noble executives said they haven't ruled out a different Bronx location.

On Tuesday, Bronx Borough President Diaz plans to meet with other local officials to deploy a strategy to try to get the bookstore to stay.

Fright Night

Thousands of ghosts, ghouls and other creatures haunted the streets in the city's annual Village Halloween Parade. CREATIVE COMMONS | GARY KANE

Companies run by women, minorities see drop in city business, report says

CREATIVE COMMONS

Companies owned by women and minorities saw a drop in the business they conducted with city agencies during the past fiscal year, according to a report released Monday by the city comptroller.

It marked the first decline in city business by such companies in three years.

Businesses owned by women and minorities reaped only 4.8 percent of the city's $15.3 billion procurement budget, the report stated.

Because of the city's meager spending with these firms, the comptroller's office assigned a grade of "D+" to the city for its efforts to engage companies owned by women and minorities.

Apparently aware of the situation, Mayor Bill de Blasio and several elected officials announced last month the creation of a minority- and women-owned business enterprise office and set a goal of awarding at least 30 percent to such firms by 2021.

Nevertheless, Comptroller Scott Stringer said "game-changing shifts" aren't happening.

"As much as we talk about moving forward, this report demonstrates that at least for the last fiscal year, we moved backward and have a long way to go," he said.

Although there are roughly 540,000 minority-owned and 414,000 women-owned firms in the city, only 4,527 — less than 1 percent — are certified with the city. Only 994 of the certified firms received city spending in fiscal 2016.

The comptroller's office looked at 31 city agencies and graded them on the amount they spent on construction, professional services and goods in business dealings with companies owned by women and minorities.

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GETTY IMAGES

Facebook pledges fewer content removals, new criteria to come

Conflict over policies follow removal of iconic war photo.

Facebook will allow more content on its platform that it would have earlier removed because it violated its standards, with new criteria being worked out, a senior executive said on Monday, following a row over the removal of an iconic Vietnam War photo.

His comments came on the same day that more than 70 rights groups asked Facebook to clarify its policies for removing content, especially at the behest of governments, alleging the firm had repeatedly censored postings that document human rights violations.

Only a month ago, the company and Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg came into conflict after Facebook deleted the photo of a naked Vietnamese girl fleeing a napalm attack, called "The Terror of War."

Solberg posted the photograph on her Facebook page after the company had deleted it from the sites of a Norwegian author and the newspaper Aftenposten, which mounted a front-page campaign urging Facebook to permit publication.

"We have made a number of policy changes after 'The Terror of War' photo. We have improved our escalation process to ensure that controversial stories and images get surfaced more quickly," said Patrick Walker, Facebook's director of media partnership for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

"[And] in the weeks ahead, we are going to begin allowing more items that people find newsworthy, significant or important to the public interest, even if they might otherwise violate our standards," Walker told a meeting of the Association of Norwegian Editors in Oslo, to which he was invited following the row.

Walker's comments echoed an Oct. 21 blog post by Joel Kaplan, Facebook's head of global public policy, and Justin Osofsky, Facebook's head of global operations and media partnerships, in which the executives said the firm would change its guidelines on removing content.

"Our intent is to allow more images and stories without posing safety risks or showing graphic images to minors and others who do not want to see them," they wrote.

REUTERS

Giant panda Bao Bao to leave United States for China

Bao Bao the female giant panda will leave the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. early next year and move to China under a breeding agreement, officials at the zoo said on Thursday.

Three-year-old Bao Bao, who was the first surviving cub born at Smithsonian's National Zoo since 2005, has enchanted zoo visitors and others who watched her via live "panda cam" footage.

"She's captured the hearts of people all over the world who watched her grow up ... and she has been an ambassador for conservation," Brandie Smith, associate director of animal care at the zoo, said in a statement.

Bao Bao will enter the breeding program for giant pandas under an arrangement between the zoo and the China Wildlife Conservation Association that says all cubs born at the U.S. national zoo must move to China by the time they turn 4 years old.

Upon arrival in Chengdu, China she will travel to a facility run by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda, accompanied by one keeper and one veterinarian from the National Zoo, officials in Washington said.

The zoo's panda team will continuously monitor Bao Bao during the trip and will travel with a supply of her favorite treats, "including bamboo, apples, pears, cooked sweet potatoes and water."

Bao Bao must reach sexual maturity, between the ages of 5 and 6 years old, before entering the breeding program, the zoo said, and by then she will have acclimated to her new home. REUTERS

Bao Bao is seen in his enclosure at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

Study: Zika causes infertility, lasting harm to testes in mice

A study of mice infected with Zika showed the virus caused lasting damage to key cells in the male reproductive system, resulting in shrunken testicles, lower levels of sex hormones and reduced fertility, researchers said on Monday.

So far, the findings are only in mice, but the result is worrisome enough to warrant further study because of possible implications for people, said Dr. Michael Diamond of Washington University in St. Louis, whose research was published in the journal Nature.

"It has to be corroborated," Diamond, a professor of pathology, immunology and molecular microbiology, said in a telephone interview.

Much of the global effort to fight Zika has focused on protecting pregnant women from infection because of the grave implications for their unborn children.

Zika infections in pregnant women have been shown to cause microcephaly, a severe birth defect in which the head and brain are undersized, as well as other brain abnormalities.

Previous studies have shown that Zika can remain in semen for as long as six months. But little is known about whether prolonged exposure to the virus in the testes can cause harm.

To study this, Diamond and colleagues injected male mice with Zika. After a week, the researchers recovered infectious virus from the testes and sperm, and they found evidence of viral genes in certain cells of the testes. But overall, the testes appeared normal compared with other lab mice.

After three weeks, however, the differences were stark. The testes in the Zika-infected mice had shrunk to a tenth of their normal size, and the internal structure was destroyed.

"We saw significant evidence of destruction of the seminiferous tubules, which are important for generating new sperm," Diamond said.

Aedes aegypti mosquitos are known to carry the virus. GETTY IMAGES

The researchers also found that Zika infects and kills Sertoli cells, which maintain the barrier between the bloodstream and the testes and foster sperm growth. Sertoli cells do not regenerate.

That raises the specter of long-lasting damage.

"The virus is infecting a site which doesn't really renew if it gets damaged. That is the problem," Diamond said.

Tests of testicular function showed sperm counts, sex hormones and fertility had dropped. Infected mice were four times less likely to impregnate a healthy female mouse than healthy males.

"This is the only virus I know of that causes such severe symptoms of infertility," added Dr. Kelle Moley, a fertility specialist at Washington University and a study co-author.

There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika. REUTERS

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Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. GETTY IMAGES

Wall Street flat as investors hold off ahead of election

Uncertainty caused by the narrowing of the polls.

Stocks were little changed on Monday as investors desisted from taking large positions ahead of the outcome of the U.S. election next week.

The FBI's review of newly discovered emails related to Hillary Clinton's use of a private server added to the uncertainty over U.S. presidential elections.

While Clinton had opened a recent lead over her unpredictable Republican rival Donald Trump in national polls, it had been narrowing even before the email controversy resurfaced.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll released on Sunday showed Clinton with a statistically insignificant 1-point national lead.

"The narrowing of the polls is making the market a little bit nervous because it had priced in a Clinton victory," said Thomas Wilson, senior investment manager at Brinker Capital, Berwyn, Pennsylvania.

"This has caused some uncertainty and we all know the market hates that. I expect the market to be stuck in a no-man's land until the election."

On Monday, though, investor sentiment was buoyed by a flurry of deals.

Dow component General Electric was up 0.61 percent at $29.39 after it said it would merge its oil and gas business with oil field services provider Baker Hughes. Baker Hughes was down 1.8 percent at $58.04.

Level 3 Communications rose 4.3 percent to $56.42 after CenturyLink said it would buy the company in a deal with an equity value of about $24 billion. CenturyLink fell 10.5 percent to $27.20.

At 10:58 a.m. the Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.78 points, or 0.01 percent, at 18,159.41; the S&P 500 was up 1.77 points, or 0.08 percent, at 2,128.18; and the Nasdaq Composite was up 4.32 points, or 0.08 percent, at 5,194.42.

Nike fell 3.2 percent to $50.36 and was the biggest drag on the Dow, after BofA Merrill Lynch downgraded the stock.

Seven of the 11 major S&P sectors were higher, with the utilities index's 1.61 percent rise leading the advancers.

The energy index slid 0.98 percent after oil prices fell, with the Brent crude futures hitting their lowest in more than a month.

The market is also watching the outcome of the U.S. Federal Reserve meeting, which begins on Tuesday. The Fed is unlikely to make a move this week, as it is too close to the election, with many market participants instead expecting a hike in December.

With uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the election and the Fed raising rates by the year-end, the U.S. market is headed for its worst monthly decline since January.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,397 to 1,375. On the Nasdaq, 1,419 issues fell and 1,132 advanced.

The S&P 500 index showed seven new 52-week highs and five new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 16 new highs and 72 new lows. REUTERS

"The narrowing of the polls is making the market a little bit nervous because it had priced in a Clinton victory."

Thomas Wilson, senior investment manager at Brinker Capital

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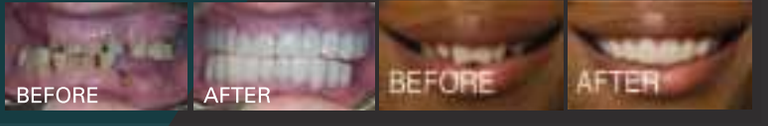

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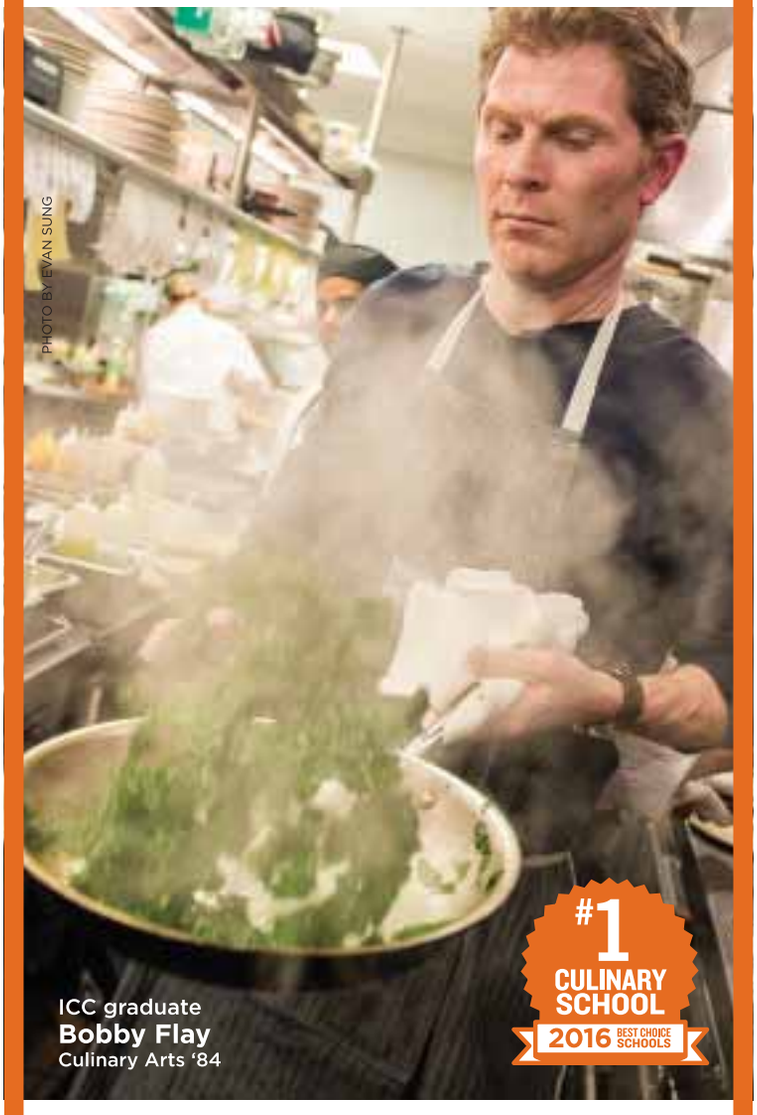

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Got bank? Election could create flood of marijuana cash with no place to go

Not enough banks are willing to take merchant's money from pot sales.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Although the sale of marijuana is a federal crime, the number of U.S. banks working with pot businesses, now sanctioned in many states, is growing, up 45 percent in the last year alone.

Still, marijuana merchants say there are not nearly enough banks willing to take their cash. So many dispensaries resort to stashing cash in storage units, back offices and armored vans.

Proponents believe the Nov. 8 election could tip the balance in favor of liberalizing federal marijuana laws, a move seen as key to getting risk-averse banks off the sidelines.

Measures on ballots in California, Florida and seven other states would bring to 34 the number of states sanctioning pot for medical or recreational use, or both. That could push annual sales, by one estimate, to $23 billion.

The prospect for a market of such scale is adding urgency to calls for a national approach to marijuana that expands banking options. Law enforcement and Federal Reserve officials have expressed concern about the fraud and crime associated with unbankable cash.

Nearly 600 dispensary robberies have been reported in Denver since recreational pot was legalized in Colorado three years ago.

"There's not a single human being who thinks there is any benefit at all in forcing marijuana business to be conducted on an all-cash basis," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, a Democrat from Oregon who has called for the decriminalization of marijuana since coming to Congress in 1996.

Money laundering

The U.S. Justice Department said in 2014 it would not prosecute banks for serving state-sanctioned marijuana businesses. At the same time, the Treasury Department requires banks to report suspected drug crimes.

At last count, 301 banks were serving marijuana businesses, according to the Treasury Department. Many more have avoided the sector out of fear that making the wrong call could put them at risk, said Robert Rowe, a vice president at the American Bankers Association.

The National Cannabis Association is pressing Congress for a law that would hold banks harmless for handling pot cash, said Michael Correia, a lobbyist for the trade group. If California legalizes recreational use next week, the nation's biggest congressional delegation will have a big stake in the issue.

In lieu of federal action, some states have tried their own fixes. Colorado created a credit union system for state-sanctioned marijuana businesses. But it fell apart when the Kansas City Federal Reserve denied a Colorado pot credit union access to the national payments system, which distributes currency and clears checks and electronic payments.

California has no such plans, said Tom Dresslar, spokesman for the state's Department of Business Oversight.

"This was a problem created by federal law," Dresslar said, "and it needs a federal solution."

In northern California, where growers serve state-sanctioned medical dispensaries as well as the black market, the Community Credit Union of Southern Humboldt stopped opening pot business accounts because of the red tape and uncertainty, said senior vice president Janet Sanchez.

"We're not being asked to go over to the gun dealer and ask them if they're making appropriate background checks," she said.

Dispensary operators unable to find willing banks tell tales of subterfuge, record-keeping nightmares and armies of security guards. Many open bank accounts and submit credit card charges in ways that obscure their true enterprise, such as "spa services." REUTERS

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Democrats sue Trump for alleged voter intimidation in four states

GOP operative Roger Stone also sued for exit-poll effort Democrats say is meant to scare minority voters.

Hillary Clinton during a campaign rally at Kent State University in Ohio. GETTY IMAGES

Democratic Party officials sued Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in four battleground states on Monday, seeking to shut down a poll-watching effort they said was designed to harass minority voters in the Nov. 8 election.

In lawsuits filed in federal courts in Pennsylvania, Nevada, Arizona and Ohio, Democrats argued that Trump and Republican Party officials were mounting a "campaign of vigilante voter intimidation" that violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act and an 1871 law aimed at the Ku Klux Klan.

"Trump has sought to advance his campaign's goal of 'voter suppression' by using the loudest microphone in the nation to implore his supporters to engage in unlawful intimidation," the Ohio Democratic Party wrote in a legal filing. Similar language was used in the other lawsuits.

The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Since August, Trump has urged his supporters to monitor polling locations on Election Day for signs of possible voting fraud, often urging them to keep a close eye on cities like Philadelphia and St. Louis that have high minority populations.

Campaigning in Ohio, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton said Trump was hoping to discourage people from participating in the election.

"His whole strategy is to suppress the vote. Lots of noise. Lots of distractions," Clinton said in Cleveland.

Democrats are also trying to stop the Republican National Committee from working with the Trump campaign or state parties on poll monitoring, arguing in a separate case that a long-standing court order prevents the national party organization from engaging in "ballot security" measures.

> *"Trump has sought to advance his campaign's goal of 'voter suppression' by using the loudest microphone in the nation to implore his supporters to engage in unlawful intimidation."*
>
> Ohio Democratic Party

In a motion filed on Monday in that case, the RNC said it was not involved in poll watching but was working to support Trump in other areas. "That is evidence of politics, not wrongdoing," the RNC said.

Many states allow campaigns and political parties to monitor balloting, although they often face restrictions. In Pennsylvania, for example, poll watchers must be formally certified by the local election board and must be registered voters in the county where they are working. The state Republican party has sued to remove those restrictions.

With early voting under way, civil rights groups have said they have heard isolated reports of self-described poll monitors photographing voters and engaging in other intimidating behavior.

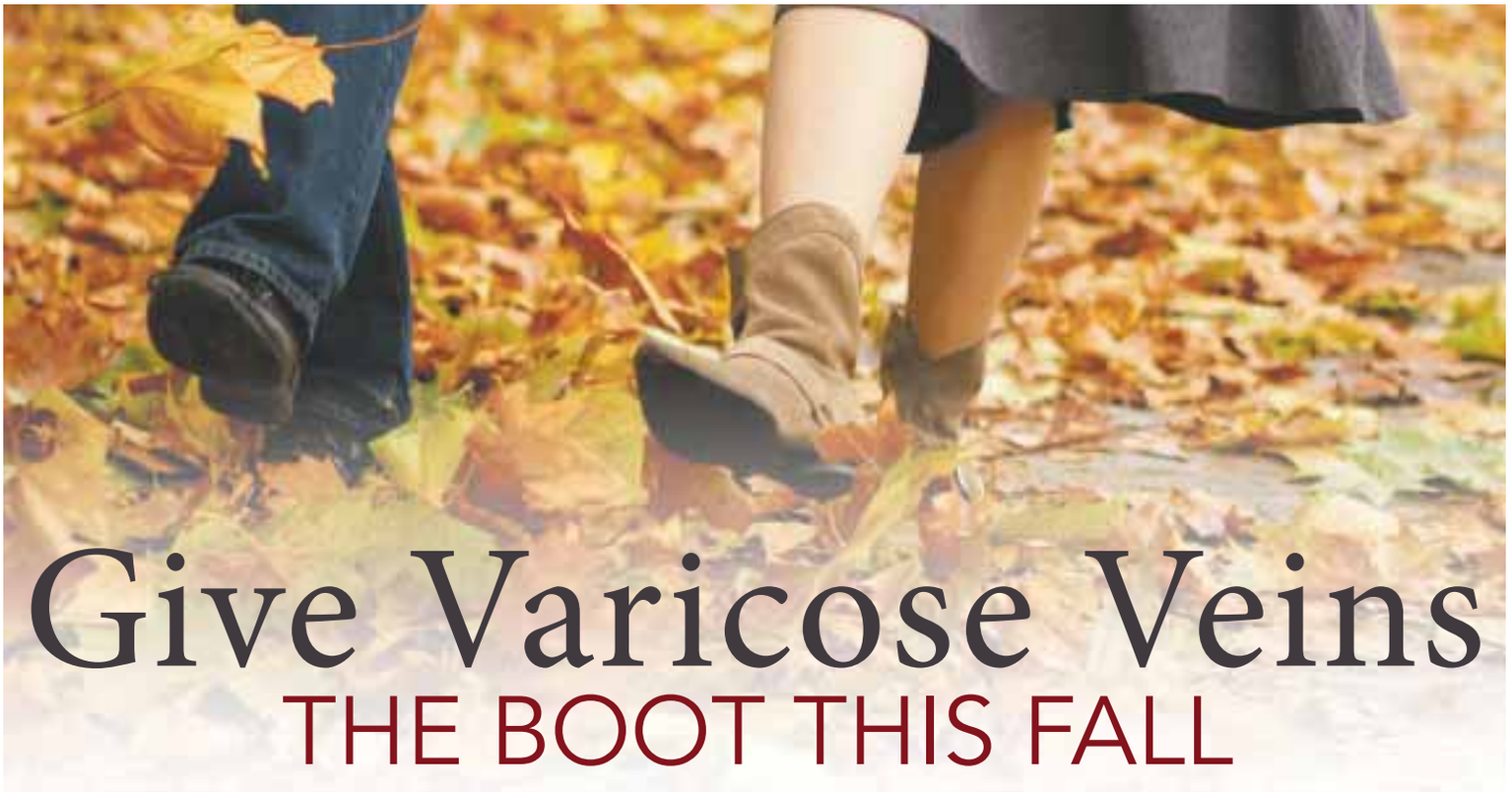
Democrats also sued Republican operative Roger Stone, a longtime Trump ally who is organizing an exit-polling effort. Democrats said the true purpose of the project, called Stop the Steal, was to intimidate minority and urban voters.

Stone told Reuters that his project was designed to ensure that electronic voting machines were working properly.

On Stop the Steal's website, Stone says Clinton's Democrats "intend to flood the polls with illegals. Liberal enclaves already let illegals vote in their local and state elections and now they want them to vote in the Presidential election."

Stone said the 1,400 people across the United States who volunteered for the project had been instructed to use neutral language and only approach people after they had voted.

"Since we are only talking to voters after they have voted, how can we be intimidating them?" Stone said. REUTERS



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Airbnb, New York in talks to resolve rental law lawsuit

Airbnb Inc. and New York state are in talks to resolve a lawsuit brought by the company challenging a law it says could expose it to significant penalties for advertising short-term apartment rentals, a person familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The potential accord was revealed after U.S. District Judge Katherine Forrest in Manhattan canceled a hearing that had been set for Monday. The person said the hearing was adjourned so both sides could "work out a consensual resolution."

Without referencing the potential resolution, Forrest, in a one-page order, directed the parties to provide her with a status update by the end of the week.

The company filed the lawsuit in Manhattan federal court on Oct. 21 after Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law legislation that imposed fines of up to $7,500 on hosts who advertise illegal short-term rentals on platforms like Airbnb.

ISTOCL

Airbnb had contended that the law's ambiguous wording could allow New York authorities to apply the law to online platforms like itself that host third-party listings, creating the risk of significant civil penalties and criminal liability.

Airbnb did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday. A spokesman for Cuomo had no immediate comment.

The lawsuit came amid ongoing clashes between the online lodging service and local public officials seeking to minimize the impact of short-term rentals on neighborhoods and urban housing markets.

In a case that is a crucial test of Airbnb's business model, the company has filed a lawsuit in San Francisco to block a new requirement that it reject booking fees from property owners who have not registered with the city.

Airbnb argues it cannot legally be held responsible for how landlords use its platform. If it is required to enforce local laws on short-term rentals, that could drastically reduce listings in some of its biggest markets.

The case is Airbnb Inc v. Schneiderman, et al, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 16-08239. REUTERS

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Wells Fargo agrees to $50 million settlement over homeowner fees

Wells Fargo & Co. has agreed to pay $50 million to settle a racketeering lawsuit accusing it of overcharging hundreds of thousands of homeowners for appraisals ordered after they defaulted on their mortgage loans.

The proposed settlement, which requires court approval, was disclosed in a filing on Friday in an Oakland, California, federal court. If approved, it will resolve nationwide claims that Wells Fargo charged much more than it paid for third-party appraisals, exploiting borrowers who could least afford it and driving them further into default.

Wells Fargo's settlement of the lawsuit comes as the bank is still recoiling from a scandal over sales targets that drove employees to create unauthorized accounts for customers. Multiple lawsuits over those practices are pending.

Spokesman Tom Goyda said Wells Fargo believes its appraisal practices were proper and disagreed with the lawsuit's claims but settled to avoid further litigation.

Plaintiffs' lawyer Roland Tellis said: "We're very pleased to have negotiated a settlement that achieves our litigation goals."

About 250,000 homeowners are covered by the proposed deal, he said.

Mortgage agreements allow banks to charge homeowners for the appraisals if they default on their mortgage loans, but Wells Fargo added large markups to the amounts its third-party vendors charged, the 2012 lawsuit said.

Wells Fargo typically charged $95 to $125 for the type of expedited appraisal at issue, when the actual cost was $50 or less, the complaint said. The charges added hundreds or thousands of dollars to borrower's mortgage loans over time, the lawsuit said.

Customers did not know they had been victimized because the charges were described on statements with cryptic labels such as "other charges," the lawsuit said.

The plaintiffs had sought triple damages under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. The lawsuit said sending invoices and statements with the fraudulently concealed fees constituted mail and wire fraud sufficient to allege racketeering.

In court filings, lawyers for Wells Fargo had called those claims "far-fetched." The U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and courts have recognized that fees similar to Wells Fargo's can include a profit margin, the lawyers said.

REUTERS

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Why patients come from Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, the Bronx for this arthritis pain treatment . . . and why waiting c

By Matt Edgar - America's Health Writer

NY Pain MD, a center for Non-Surgical Medical Relief For Spine And Joint Pain Relief, is a medical clinic with multiple locations in New York City that has treated thousands of knee arthritis patients. Here is what every knee arthritis sufferer should know about the best treatments and options available today. And why waiting can drastically decrease your chances to live a pain free life again.

The information you are about to read can possibly save you from years and years of agonizing knee pain. It might even keep you from getting total knee replacement surgery. *Please pay careful attention.*

What you are about to read is a cutting-edge medical treatment... But it is NOT what it appears to be at first glance. In fact, I'm going to have to ask for a bit of patience from you if you have already **unsuccessfully** tried any (or many) other knee arthritis pain treatments

You see, many knee arthritis sufferers had already tried what seemed to be similar treatments to what we are going to talk about and did not get the results they wanted. But I assure you there is something VERY DIFFERENT about the technology and the way we do this treatment that can possibly make it much more effective for many ... and it often gets results when many others have failed.

This is why patients come from all over the tri-state area and beyond to have their knee arthritis pain treated here.

Would You Like Instant Proof?

If you want instant proof - you can just look at all the actual patient testimonials we have included. These patients were once skeptical just like you ... and are now either pain free ... or eliminated quite a bit of their pain..

Here's the most important thing:

Many said they had seen this information SEVERAL times before finally deciding to take action and give us a call. As you can see - they are happy they did. Once crippled with knee pain, they are playing golf again, dancing again, riding bikes again and going for long walks again.

But We Do Get One Very Common Complaint ... And it is:

"I wish I started this treatment much sooner."

Let's be very clear about this. Time is the most precious thing. There is no way to slow it down - or get any of it back once it's gone.

All the more reason for you to *not* suffer even one more second than necessary. Missing life while suffering in pain is a tragedy. Isn't it time for you try to get rid of your knee pain and start living the life you want and deserve?

And please understand this: One of the keys to success in medicine is early diagnosis and treatment. Like many diseases, arthritis only gets worse over time. The longer you wait - the more damage to your knee and eventually- the more pain. If you wait "past the point of no return", the entire knee joint can be degenerated and your ONLY option will be total knee replacement.

If you are suffering with knee arthritis pain, here is why you should act NOW:
When you have arthritis, you suffer a decrease in the lubricating fluids in your knee. In other words, your knee joint basically *"dries up."* The lubricating fluid that decreases is called *"synovial fluid"*. Pharmaceutical companies can now make synovial fluid-like compounds that… during treatment… doctors precisely and directly apply these gel-like medicines into the knee joint. This helps replenish the lubricating fluid to the knee joint - cushioning the knee allowing it to move more freely and smoothly while often decreasing or even eliminating pain.

What Results Can Be Expected?

Like all medical treatments, the results vary and can not be predicted. In fact, it is impossible to predict results and there are no statistics proving what the "average" patients can expect. Everyone is individual and gets individual results - so we never tell anyone to expect the same results as any of our other patients. But to be 100% clear - many knee arthritis sufferers get dramatic results. It is not uncommon for patients to either postpone knee replacement surgery for years ... or even permanently cancel it.

What Are Treatments Like?

Treatments are simple, fast and virtually painless. The total time of the procedure itself is only 10 minutes and you walk out of the clinic just minutes after your procedure with nothing but a one inch band-aid on your knee.

But There Is A BIG Problem. The key is that the treatment must be EXTREMELY PRECISE. Often ignored by many other clinics, if the procedure is just slightly off, the medication will not get exactly into the knee joint and the treatment will not work. That's why the experts at ***NY Pain MD*** use what they call "Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology" or **P.A.T.T.** - so they can confirm the special medicine went directly into the knee joint and not into the surrounding tissues.

Research shows that doctors performing procedures without Precision Arthritis Targeting can miss the joint as much as 30% of the time. If you had viscosupplementation (or Stem Cells or PRP) without the exactness of P.A.T.T. and did not get good results - this may be why.

In fact, by using Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology, ***NY Pain MD*** doctors are able to "double confirm" the precise placement of the natural arthritis medicines used. This is to help ensure patients get the best possible results.

Another Important Factor

Viscosupplementation medications also come in several different brands and chemical make- ups. Just like all medications, some people respond better to some than others. While many doctors only use one type or formula, the experts at ***NY Pain MD*** use several. And great effort is taken to figure out which is best for YOU.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain

Your Special Invitation

NY Pain MD offers a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get their questions answered and find out if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at ***NY Pain MD***. To schedule a complimentary screening, all you have to do is call **800-227-KNEE**. The screenings can fill up fast every month. But, this screening is at no cost and there is no further obligation. Call **800-227-KNEE** to schedule your screening. Many of the procedures offered at *NY Pain MD* are often covered by many insurance plans, union plans, work comp and even traditional & AARP Medicare.

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I had (replacement) surgery scheduled last year. But three months before the surgery I decided to make an appointment with ***NY Pain MD*** I was amazed at the ease with which I was evaluated and the treatment schedule implemented. The results I had at ***NY Pain MD*** were outstanding. I cannot ask for better results. After the treatment I was able to go back to work with no discomfort at all. They use a digital monitor to locate the space that they use the treatment for and it's like exact science and I never had to have replacement.

Dr. Stanley Weiner MD

"Hey this feel terrific"

I was diagnosed with bone on bone about 2 years ago I went to see an Orthopedic Surgeon and he said my knees were shot and I need to get them replaced. The NY Pain guys said after looking at x-rays they could help. That procedure is so basic so simple so quick in 15 minutes you are in and out. When I got up out of the chair I stood up and I said, "*Hey this feels terrific."*

"I don't have any pain any more"

After I had the treatments ... the last tune up ... I just go right to the golf course. I'm able to keep up with these guys who walk - I'm right next to them! My guys on the golf course would say Hey, look at this he doesn't need us to put the ball up any more. **When I'm playing on the course I don't have any pain any more I don't have any aches and pain.** I'm out there playing!

"I feel like a new woman"

I came to the clinic because I was not sleeping at night. My leg was pounding. There were times when I sat too long the knee would tighten up. I would get in pain and I would be miserable and I would have it for the whole night. **After the treatment I goof around with my grandchildren. I feel like a new woman.** It's great. I know I don't have to sit on the couch and be in pain and I can just pick up and get dressed and go out. It was so gentle.

"I'm able to do it again"

It got to the point where I couldn't stand up for a period of time and I knew something had to be done about it. You walk into the doctors office - he puts your leg in a machine - he shows you where he is going to do the procedure and before you know it... It's done and you're outta there. Now I'm able to take out my bicycle and we took a couple of rides out in the woods and we had a good time and . . . ***I couldn't do that for years and now I'm able to do it again.***

"I feel like a new woman - It's amazing"

The pain was excruciating like 24/7. Nothing I took over-the-counter would work so I knew it was something more serious. When I saw that my condition was not getting any better, I decided to do something about it and I immediately made an appointment - I went and started treatment. **The feeling of getting back to my dancing and my mobility is indescribable. I feel like a new woman - It's amazing.**

"I am ecstatic with the results of this procedure"

One day, as I was running, my knee got tighter and tighter. I had to stop and just walk home. They x-rayed me and said I was a candidate for treatment. You sit there for few minutes and then you are up and walking out the door. I am ecstatic with the results of this procedure because I could not run just weeks before. I ran my race without any issues. I felt good - it just opened a door that was closing.

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Iraqi forces make first push into Mosul

The current military operation is the largest since Saddam Hussein's overthrow in 2003.

Advancing Iraqi troops broke through Islamic State defenses in an eastern suburb of Mosul on Monday, taking the battle for the insurgents' stronghold into the city limits for the first time, a force commander said.

The fighting came after two weeks of advances by U.S.-backed Iraqi forces who cleared surrounding areas of insurgents, in the early stages of the largest military operation in Iraq since the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Commanders have said the battle for the city, the hardline militants' last big bastion in Iraq, could take months.

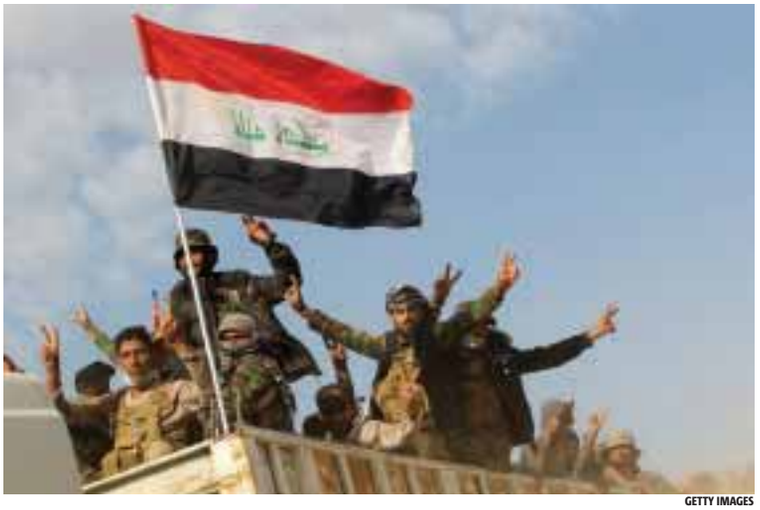
Troops of the Iraqi army's Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) moved forward on Gogjali, an industrial zone on the eastern outskirts.

The commander of CTS forces east of the city, Lieutenant-General Abdul Ghani al-Assadi, told state television his forces had reached the edge of the Karama district inside the city.

A Reuters correspondent in the village of Bazwaia saw plumes of smoke rising from a built-up area a few kilometers away which a commander said was the result of clashes already under way inside Karama.

A Kurdish peshmerga intelligence source said he received a report saying seven Islamic State militants were killed in the Aden district, adjacent to Karama, and two of their vehicles destroyed.

Iraqi state television said there were also clashes inside the city between Islamic State fighters and residents rising up against the group.



GETTY IMAGES

The Kurdish intelligence source said such "resistance elements" had opened fire on an Islamic State police unit in Intisaar district, south of Karama, and armed fighters had spread out in streets across the city apparently fearing revolt.

Reuters could not independently verify the report. The government and its U.S. allies are hoping an uprising inside the city will help loosen the grip of the fighters, who seized it in 2014 and proclaimed a "caliphate" to rule over all Muslims.

The fighting ahead in a built-up city still home to 1.5 million people will be more complex than the recent capture of Christian and Sunni Muslim villages and towns outside the city, mostly emptied of their residents.

Mosul is many times larger than any other city Islamic State has held, and the United Nations has warned of a worst-case scenario of up to 1 million people being suddenly displaced, requiring the world's largest humanitarian operation.

"SURRENDER OR DIE"

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, speaking at the Qayyara military airbase south of Mosul, said the Iraqi forces were trying to close off all escape routes for the several thousand Islamic State fighters inside Mosul.

"God willing, we will chop off the snake's head," Abadi, wearing military fatigues, told state television. "They have no escape, they either die or surrender."

Iraqi security forces and Kurdish peshmerga fighters started the offensive against the hardline Sunni group on Oct. 17, with air and ground support from a U.S.-led coalition.

"They are making deliberate progress, they're on their timeline," British Major General Rupert Jones, deputy commander for strategy and support of the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State coalition, told Reuters. REUTERS

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Syrian army says rebel bombardment of Aleppo killed 84 in three days

Smoke rises after Syrian oppositions attack Assad Regime controlled Military academy during an operation to break the siege of the regime forces in the city center in Aleppo, Syria. GETTY IMAGES

Syria's army said on Monday the Nusra Front and what the army called other terrorist groups had killed 84 people, mostly women and children, in Aleppo during the past three days, in a bombardment that included chemical weapons and rocket fire.

The Nusra Front broke allegiance with al Qaeda and changed its name to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham in July. It is one of the main rebel groups taking part in an offensive against government-held western Aleppo that began on Friday.

Syrian state media reported on Sunday that militants had fired poison gas at the Hamdaniya district of government-held western Aleppo. Rebels called that accusation a lie.

In a statement on Monday, the Army and Armed Forces High Command said rebels had targeted schools and civilians, fired 20 poison gas canisters, 50 Grad rockets and ignited 48 fires.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said it had recorded 48 deaths since the rebel offensive began, including 17 children.

Human rights groups and Western countries have previously accused Syria's army, backed by Russia's air force, of targeting hospitals, bakeries and other civilian areas in their bombardments of rebel areas, including eastern Aleppo.

A U.N. report, attacked by Russia as not having credibility, has also found that the Syrian military has used chemical weapons on at least twice, something it denies. Damascus refers to all the rebel groups fighting it as terrorists.

The insurgent offensive against government-held western Aleppo comes more than a month into an operation by the army to retake the city's rebel-held eastern districts, which it had already put under siege. REUTERS

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the word

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Adele opens up about postpartum struggles

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Adele has built a massive career with her powerful voice — both in music and in life. And at the height of her career, she took on a new role as mom, or rather, mum. In a recent interview for Vanity Fair, Adele opened up about her struggles with motherhood.

"One day I said to a friend, 'I f—in' hate this,'" the 28-year-old admits. "My knowledge of postpartum — or postnatal, as we call it in England — is that you don't want to be with your child; you're worried you might hurt your child; you're worried you weren't doing a good job. But I was *obsessed* with my child. I felt very inadequate; I felt like I'd made the worst decision of my life. … Eventually I just said, 'I'm going to give myself an afternoon a week, just to do whatever the f— I want without my baby.'"

We're glad that for at least a short time, Adele's not rolling in the deep.

Are Madonna and Idris Elba dating?

We were so excited to cover Idris Elba's victory in his debut kickboxing fight — it looks like the actor is being molded into a real-life James Bond — that we may have overlooked a juicy detail. As mentioned, Madonna was ringside, cheering Idris on and capturing the fight for Instagram. While we were swooning over the 44-year-old, none of us thought to ask why the pop icon was there.

Well it looks like the two might have a thing! A source told the Sun that they were kissing after the match and pretty cozy at an after party. Elba took to Twitter to deny claims that they were sleeping together.

To Elba's defense, Madonna does seem to have a knack for publicly locking lips with celebs. Ask Britney Spears and Drake.

Slash claims he was never married to wife of 15 years

Celebrity breakups are in a league of their own when it comes to drama. And new developments in the divorce between Guns N' Roses guitarist, Slash, and his wife of 15 years, Perla Ferrar, is a case study in this. Perla speculates that half of the 51-year-old rock legend's fortune is worth over $10 million. Oh, and that fortune would be the one she claims she's entitled to — as there was no prenup. But Slash, whose real name is Saul Hudson, is throwing a curveball according to TMZ. He claims that the two of them were never actually married. Perla was still legally married to someone else when she and Slash tied the knot in 2001 thanks to a mishandling of divorce paperwork. The error was discovered years into her marriage to Slash and a judge retroactively fixed the mistake in 2009. But Slash says this mistake nullifies their 15-year marriage, shutting down her claim to half of his money. Welcome to the jungle known as divorce.

Mob tries to crash Diddy's sons' Halloween bash

Justin and Christian Combs, sons of hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs, threw a star-studded Halloween bash in Hollywood on Sunday night that included Amber Rose, Chris Brown and Meagan Good.

When you throw one of the hottest parties in town, there are bound to be some people trying to skirt the guest list to get in. A mob of would-be party crashers rushed the venue gates after Justin, 22, dressed as the Joker, and Christian, 18, dressed as rapper Cam'ron, made their grand entrance.

Security struggled with the group to close the gates and unleashed a dose of pepper spray to tame the rowdy crowd. The party kept going on after the incident. Because like P. Diddy said, "I thought I told you that we won't stop." Sorry, that was too easy.

Laura Dern loves to work

The acclaimed actress talks about "Certain Women" and working with great filmmakers.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Laura Dern plays a lawyer dealing with a problematic (but righteously angry) client (Jared Harris) in Kelly Reichardt's "Certain Women." SUNDANCE SELECTS

Laura Dern collects unique filmmakers like trinkets. Over her career she's worked with David Lynch, Todd Haynes, Paul Thomas Anderson, Jonathan Demme, Robert Altman, Steven Spielberg and more. She places Kelly Reichardt ("Wendy and Lucy," "Meek's Cutoff") right up there with them.

In the filmmaker's latest, "Certain Women," she takes the lead in one of the film's three stories. (The others star Michelle Williams, Lily Gladstone and Kristen Stewart.) Her character, Laura, is a lawyer whose wronged client (Jared Harris) winds up involving her in a hostage situation. It sounds like a powder keg, but Reichardt is more interested in the deceptively mundane moments. And for Dern, 49, that's what excites her about screen acting.

One thing I love about Reichardt's films is how much they dwell on in-between moments, when it seems like not much is happening but so much actually is.

She's definitely interested in what we usually don't see. What we often don't see is often what we're missing in people: what they're actually feeling and what they're going through, but which is not what's being spoken about. For me, it was a very exciting education in not simplicity — that's something I strive for no matter who I'm playing — but the character has a very specific kind of simplicity.

You seem to love working with filmmakers who have unique — often very, very unique — voices.

I'm such a fan of film, and I'm such an admirer and advocate for filmmakers making their visions. We have so few that really want to tell stories the unique way they want to tell them and will do whatever it takes to do that. Kelly is as fiercely true to that as anyone. She knows that if she wants to do it this way, it will have to be in a certain budget in a certain way, very run-and-gun. But she's going to make her movie. I've had that experience with David Lynch for my whole adult life. It's a beautiful thing when you get to witness that commitment to your vision. To be part of that vision, to be a collaborator in someone's voice that's particular and individual — that's why we do what we do.

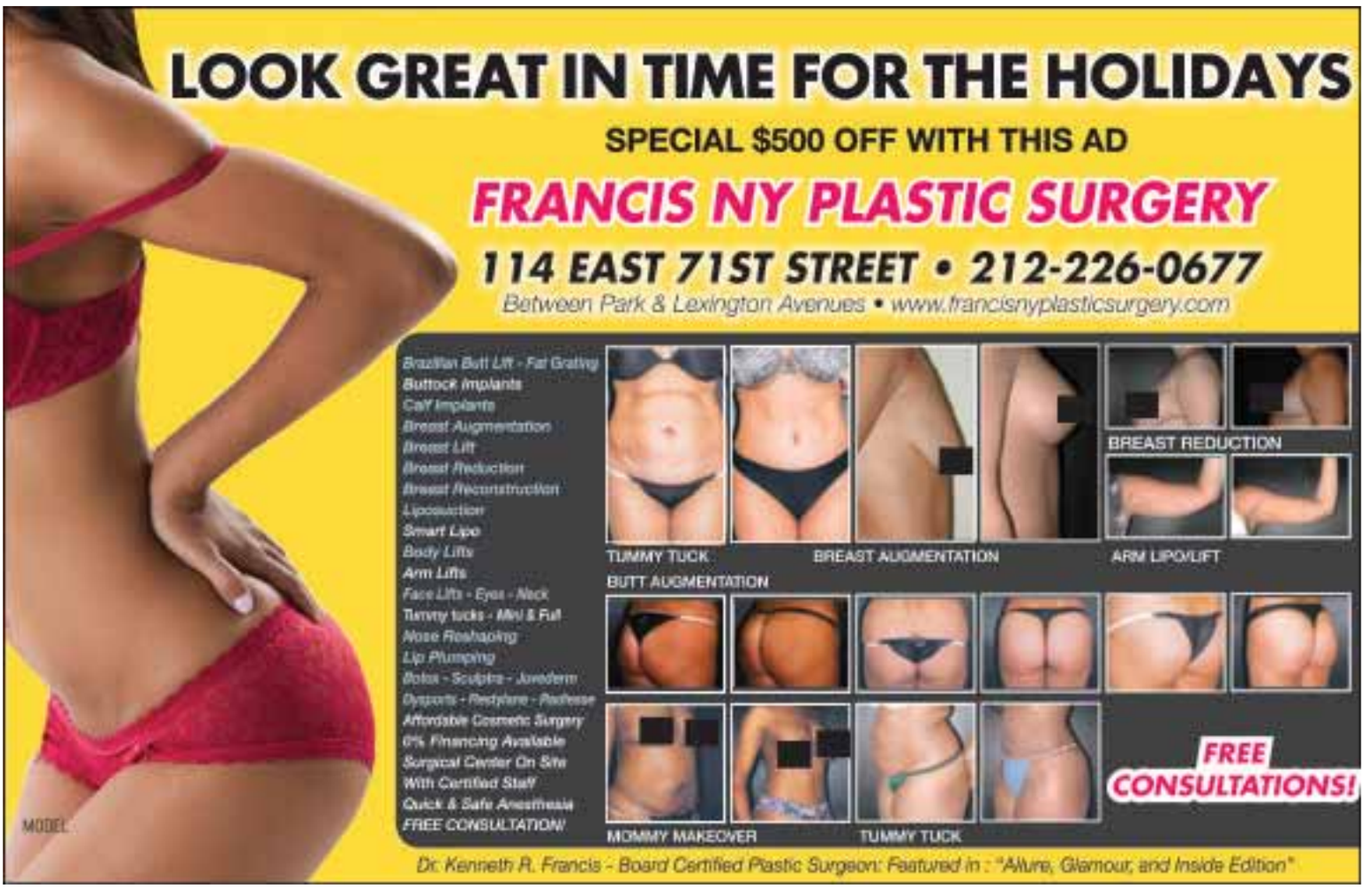
I think on a film like this, if you gave it a lot of money it would take something away from it. It needs to be small.

It's true. There's a closeness and an intimacy that working in small independent films gives you. You're all working together. Everyone's there for love, from the person cooking to the people working together. Nothing is precious. We're all sharing one space to change and get hair and makeup done. You feel like you're doing a play. My dad [Bruce Dern] is a real inspiration for me in this area. It doesn't matter what the scale of the movie is or the kinds of people he's working with. He gets his hair and makeup done, then he sits on an apple box and spends time with the crew until they're ready for him. He loves being in the mix, because he loves watching storytellers do their work.

GETTY IMAGES

And you do that, too.

I do. It shifts a little when you become a parent. You're juggling babies in the trailer and being on the set. I'm always there unless I have my kids with me, too.



Making an issue film without preaching

With the doc "Fire at Sea," Gianfranco Rosi didn't set out to make a movie about the migrant crisis.

MATT PRIGGE
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When Gianfranco Rosi started making "Fire at Sea," no one was talking about the migrant crisis. Now that the film is out, it's all Europe is talking about.

The minimalist Italian filmmaker's new documentary isn't an activist film. It's about a boy, Samuele, who lives on the small Mediterranean island of Lampedusa — which happens to be where many refugees wind up en route to Europe's mainland, sometimes drowning on the way. "Fire at Sea" contains harrowing footage, and it's since become Italy's submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars. But Rosi didn't want to tell us what to think, even if he wants us to take action.

The migrant crisis actually plays a very small part in the overall structure.

Most of Gianfranco Rosi's doc "Fire at Sea" focuses on Samuele, an 11-year-old boy who lives on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa. KINO LORBER

If this film came out two or three years ago, nobody would have talked about the migrants. Everybody started talking about it when the Balkan area was opened up and thousands of people discovered this route to Europe. When I was almost finishing the film was when it became this huge issue all over the news, all over the world. Before that, 500,000 people passed through Lampedusa in the span of a few years and nobody talked about it, except when people died or a terrorist was found.

What drew you to Samuele, the boy we see more than anyone else in the film?

When I met him, I fell in love completely. He was very small, even for his age, but he had the head of an old man. [Laughs] He was like a young Woody Allen. He had a funny, clumsy approach to life. Everything's against him: the lazy eye, the anxiety. He said he was a hunter but lives on an island. He hated the sea.

Tell me about shooting the scenes on the rescue boats.

When I shot, death came to me. It was on one of the rescues; I did so many. I spent 40 days on the military boat. And one day I met death. It came to me. I had a split second to ask myself, "Do I film or not film this? What do I do?" I decided in that moment this had to be brought to people's awareness. When I went down into the ship to film, it was the most horrific scene I ever saw in my life — these piles of bodies embracing each other in this last sigh of life. These people suffocated on the fumes of the engine under the boat. It was like a gas chamber. It was like an execution. When I filmed that, all my energy broke to keep making the film. I said, "I have to start editing. I no longer have the energy to film." Filming death is something that changes you forever.

GETTY IMAGES

When you have that footage, how difficult was it to find a place in the film that wouldn't cheapen it?

Deciding to put that in the film was a challenge. I said to my editor, "We have to conquer this moment. If we don't, we don't put it in the film." I had a structure to arrive here, to show death. The whole film was built to show these 30 seconds, but to not make it exploitive, not make it pornographic. It's really hard to show death. I wanted the film to make people accept death as a tragedy then ask, "What can I do?"

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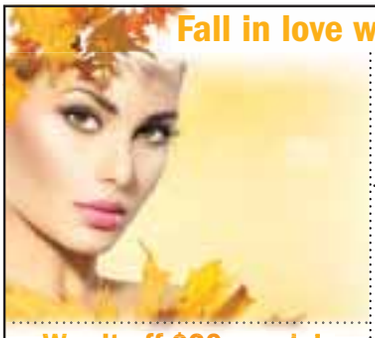
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What's new at Winter Village

Get to the Bryant Park holiday market's grand opening party tonight.

EVA KIS
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The shops and restaurants at Winter Village are open through Jan. 2. The skating rink will remain open through March 5. COLIN HUNT

Christmastime is here! The day after Halloween, twinkle lights go up, radio stations start slipping holiday songs into their sets, and most importantly, holiday markets begin to open. And there's none more anticipated than Bank of America's Winter Village at Bryant Park, which will have its grand opening ceremony Nov. 1 when two-time Olympic figure skater Johnny Weir hits the ice beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This year, Winter Village's jewel-box shops bring over 120 vendors and restaurants under the trees around the park every day from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. (through Jan. 2), with one of the city's largest outdoor ice rinks (through March 5) and a new Danny Meyer project. As usual, ice skating is free (though skate rentals are $20), as are photos with Santa when Santa's Corner returns Dec. 18-24 from 1-3 p.m.

Need another reason to check it all out on opening night? Nov. 1 is one of the market's two Tasting Tuesdays, when many food vendors offer free samples between 6 and 8 p.m. You'll need to get a wristband at Le Carrousel; the next one is on Nov. 15.

Here's what's new at this year's market.

Restaurant row

Didn't the perfect gift always seem to appear just as your hands were full of sticky treats? This year, instead of having food and product booths side-by-side, almost all of the Winter Village restaurants have been consolidated into Feast on 40th, located behind the skating pavilion. Expect lots of rib-sticking fare like raclette from Baked Cheese Haus, Chinese street crepes from the Vendy Awards' best newcomer Mr. Bing and a cretzel bar at Breads Bakery, just some of the 30 restaurants spread along 40th Street. Stop here first to fuel up for your treasure hunt.

Lots of new nibbles

The market has long supported independent vendors, and this year Winter Village has even more novel ways to fill those stockings through a collaboration with Farm to People. UrbanSpace Provisions brings the online marketplace for small-batch products to the heart of Midtown with 50 vendors selling sugar and spice and everything bite-size. Expect tasting sessions!

Public Fare by Danny Meyer

The village's main restaurant at the northeast corner of the skating rink has become a Danny Meyer joint. The Shake Shack CEO has opened Public Fare inside the glass-walled building, a casual cafe that starts the day as a coffee bar serving breakfast fare, then transforms into a restaurant serving wine, beer and cocktails in the evening with a menu of sandwiches, soups and salads. Outdoor fireside seating will be available again, sure to be one of the coziest (and tastiest) spots in town.

Holiday Shops

Start your holiday shopping at Winter Village's Holiday Shops featuring nearly 100 local vendors. Gifts like a woodcut tie clip from Lewis & Pine, eco-friendly toys at Mr. Ellie Pooh Fair Trade and aromatherapy candles that melt into super-rich body lotions from Dr. Silkman's Emporium are sure to impress anyone on your list. New this year is a mini bookstore by The Strand at the market's entrance on Sixth Avenue, selling new releases and classics, as well as quirky literature-themed gifts.

Hometown girl comes back to rule

Bridget Everett returns for the New York Comedy Festival.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

Bridget Everett is a mountain of a woman, and proud of it. It's not just her physical size that is beautifully big, but her outsize, oversexed, bawdy comic persona, too — and her hugely aggressive vocal talents to boot.

If you haven't had the pleasure, Everett is bringing her splashy live act of alt-cabaret with punchlines back home for the New York Comedy Festival this Thursday, part of 200 acts over six days taking place all over the city Nov. 1-6. You may have also seen her on Comedy Central with best bud Amy Schumer and her own special, "Gynecological Wonder." We chatted with Everett during a play session with her pooch, Poppy, about redefining cabaret and what's next for her.

PROVIDED

How does it feel to be a national sensation?

[Laughs] I still feel like I'm hustling. I don't know if I feel as if I've achieved your level of my estimated sensation. My audiences are growing and I'm damned lucky they're there for me. I've had my head down and fighting for an audience for so long that it matters when people show up.

You grew up doing musical theater. How did you hone your comic side?

I'm the youngest of six. My siblings and my parents were all really, really funny. I wanted to keep up but didn't have the skills. It was a battleground of funny insults and I oftentimes ended up going to my room crying. Not really because my feelings were hurt, but because I was upset I couldn't keep up. They were all so f—ing funny. And then, of course, you had the requisite viewings of "I Love Lucy," "The Honeymooners," the Carol Burnett shows. I loved all of it and watched the episodes over and over and over.

You're by no means a conventional cabaret act.

The term "cabaret" seems a bit archaic — more dated and sedate. I hear the word and I think stuffy and no room for sexuality and true blue humor. But coming up, it was the alt-cabaret scene that made my name because it pushed all boundaries of what cabaret is. I'm so happy I stumbled into that world. If not, I don't know what I'd be doing with my life. Kiki & Herb, Taylor Mac, Murray Hill — they were dangerous, on the edge, alt-cabaret people and performance artists, and I wanted to be a part of their world. Cabaret isn't necessarily cool. I joke about that in my show.

Comedy Central has really embraced you, including a pilot you wrote with ex-Beastie Boy Adam Horowitz. How did that all happen?

I met Comedy Central people at some of my earliest festival gigs, and they've been nothing but supportive. They want me to be me, which works out for both of us. That first pilot didn't quite gel at the time, but I have started another pilot: a real dream come true with Bobcat Goldthwait and Michael Patrick King ("Sex & the City") that has lots of musical elements and we're trying to highlight my voice in a way that's different, dangerous, fun and funny.

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Best of the New York Comedy Festival

The usual formula for comedy — tragedy plus time — has gone out the window in 2016. The New York Comedy Festival, which begins today through Nov. 6 with 60 comedians performing 200 shows, is a good reminder that the way to survive is by making a joke that's funnier, raunchier or more profound than the tragedy of whatever comes at you. You can still score tickets to some of the fest's best shows, where the only crying you'll be doing is from laughing too hard.

Brunch Night!

Samantha Bee showed what we'd been missing without a female late-night host, and Jamie Lee-Lo is doing her own take at Brunch Night! No suits, no desks, and not your usual cynical after-hours comedy routine: Expect theatrical fun that brings a little of the daytime talk show fuzzies to the rawness of theater after dark.
$22, Nov. 1, 6 p.m., Carolines on Broadway, 1626 Broadway

Tribute to Mitch Hedberg

Still can't look at an escalator or soup without laughing? Then get to Comedy Central Records' Tribute to Mitch Hedberg saluting one of the funniest observers of this absurd thing called life. His entire(ly too short) body of work is coming out on vinyl, and his friends will spend the evening sharing their best memories, alongside new backstage video and rare clips of the man himself performing.

Mitch Hedberg
GETTY IMAGES

$32.75+, Nov. 1, 9:30 p.m., Carolines on Broadway

Trump Dump: The Last Rally

There's really not much left to do but laugh about this election (but seriously, vote). Anthony Atamanuik has been playing Donald Trump for over a year on the comedy circuit after starting out in Brooklyn, and he's back in NYC for Trump Dump: The Last Rally, aka "Donald Trump's last stand against humanity." Over a hilarious night of soul-searching, the Republican nominee considers whether he should drop out of the election to save mankind, or see it through to the end and become something even more frightening.
$35, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m., NYU Skirball Center, 566 LaGuardia Place

Explain America to Me

Charlie Pickering is a big deal in his native Australia, where he's worked in comedy for almost 20 years and hosts his own comedic news program. But you don't know him, and he doesn't know America, so who better to explain America to him than comedians?
$10, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m., UCBT East Village, 153 E. Third St.

Fancy Meeting You Here

The naked statues at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will never not be at least a little funny, but you'll find lots more to chuckle about at Fancy Meeting You Here, a walking tour of the museum that will gaze deeply into all of the abstract paintings to divine their hilarious true meanings and maybe, just maybe, make sense of modern art.
$22, Friday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m., The Met, 1000 Fifth Ave. EVA KIS

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Getting schooled

City sensibilities have changed, and the Public School designers are ready to keep up.

RACHEL RACZKA
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rachel.raczka@metro.us

Public School designers Dao-Yi Chow and Maxwell Osborne have grown from fashion darlings (they were the only menswear brand chosen as part of the CFDA's Fashion Incubator in 2010) to a major driving force at one of New York's biggest design houses (they currently helm DKNY in addition to their own label). The New Yorkers, known for their ability to mix street, luxury and playful tomboy silhouettes, stopped by Boston's Saks Fifth Avenue to celebrate the arrival of their latest collection and their new game-changing collaboration with New Era.

It's funny because Boston considers itself a rival of New York, but New York doesn't quite see Boston the same way. Since you're so representative of NYC, as a brand and designers, do you think that helps or hurts you in the Boston market? What about other "rival" cities? Is it a tough sell?

Dao-Yi Chow: It's so ingrained in what we do that it doesn't feel like sell to us. It's what you get when you experience Public School. You should be able to get a New York vibe, but it's not made to be an "our city is better than yours" type of thing. I also think, we hopefully represent every big city — sophisticated ease and the functionality that gets you through the entire day — those are the sensibilities that anyone in a big city can appreciate.

Do you feel these past few years have changed you as designers — especially having come from the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund microscope?

Maxwell Osborne: I think there's been a maturity that we're continuously learning from. Season by season and day by day, we're pushing hard, but over the years, we've learned a lot of what not to do. We've made lots of mistakes, but those are the mistakes that made us who are. And we keep learning from our mentors and embracing what they've taught us.

Who's taught you the most?

Chow: I think the business has taught us the most; not just one person. And making those mistakes, like Max said. Then ultimately learning to embrace who we are. Having gone through the CFDA progression, we felt like there was a role we had to play, but now we're coming into embracing our history and ideas and not being afraid of doing something because it might not fit into a fashion calendar, or old rules of what fashion has historically placed on designers. Now it's about doing what's right for our business.

Let's talk about New Era collaboration — team logos are such a sacred thing. Was it intimidating to approach the project?

Osborne: We were the first ones in history to alter the logos — other [designers] have been able to play with the colors or the placement of the logo, but no one's been able to alter it. We were so excited to do that.

Since NYC and the people living there are your muses, have you seen her sensibilities change over the years? Is there a difference in what a New Yorker wants to wear?

Osborne: We've always thought about day-to-evening, and creating that sophisticated ease, and I think that's gone further [since we started out]. At one point, stretch fabric made up like, 2 percent of what designers are showing you, and now it's like more than 80 percent. Everything needs to have a purpose and functionality more so than ever. Sneakers are more acceptable. Sweatsuits are appropriate. Just being comfortable is a trend.

Maxwell Osborne and Dao-Yi Chow of Public School at Saks Fifth Avenue in Boston SMITA JACOB/HOGGER & CO. PHOTOGRAPHY LLC.

INSTAGRAM/@ PUBLICSCHOOLNYC

Public School x New Era

Public School was tapped by New Era to reimagine the baseball caps for the New York Yankees and the New York Mets. The designers, who are opposing fans of the teams (Chow supports the Yankees, Osborne, the Mets), were given the opportunity to update and alter the logos for both teams for the first time in MLB history.

"It's that contrast that pops up in our work," explains Chow. "We appreciate that contrast. A [baseball cap] doesn't usually have its place in a woman's femininity, but it's always nice to break it up."

The limited-edition hats are available for $65-$75 at PublicSchoolNYC.com.

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Working out in the winter

Tips to help keep you active during the colder months.

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Staying motivated to exercise regularly is hard enough; once winter strikes and the temperature drops, many of us eschew the idea of going for a run or a bike ride, instead opting to camp out under a blanket on the couch. (Netflix and warm?)

But much of that feeling of intimidation can be chalked up to inadequate preparation. Once you know what to wear to steel yourself against the elements and how to adjust your training regimen.

Knowing the risks

Anthony D'Angelo, a physical therapist and strength and conditioning specialist with Professional Physical Therapy in Manhattan, says being able to identify the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia is a top priority.

He recommends training in the cold weather with a buddy, who can help spot signs of frostbite (numbness, tingling, hardness of skin) and hypothermia (shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination).

The rule of layering

Dave DiCerbo, the founder of Destination Backcountry Adventures, who leads New Yorkers on hiking and camping trips upstate, says, "Moisture is as much your enemy in the winter as the cold." Taking into account the role sweat plays in your comfort level is key for any type of winter workout.

Your base layer should be a close fitting, thin to medium-thick synthetic garment that will wick away moisture from your body so you don't end up shivering in your own sweat. Uniqlo thermal wear is an affordable and satisfactory option. Cotton, which retains moisture, should be avoided.

Next, you'll need an insulating layer to help capture your body heat: a wool sweater, down vest or a fleece. Finally, an outer shell, such as a waterproof windbreaker, will protect you from wind and precipitation.

The trick is layering and delayering as your body temperature varies. "Don't sweat through your layers," he says.

Protecting your extremities

DiCerbo prefers glove liners, which allow for dexterity, and then topping them with mittens for extra insulation.

If you're biking — in which case mittens won't provide much in the way of functionality — Sam Richardson, manager at Bicycles NYC, warns against gloves that are too tight which won't keep your fingers warm. You'll want them to fit "slightly looser than snug" to allow your body heat to warm the air between your fingers and the glove.

He recommends a neck gaiter, which you can also pull up to cover your face, to brace yourself against the wind (also good for runners). Helmet caps, essentially a sock for your head, fit nicely under your helmet and cover your ears, "keeping the breeze off your dome piece," as he puts it.

Rather than doubling up on socks, which will cut off circulation to your feet, opt for a thicker brand, such as the Gore Thermo Road, he says. Toe covers, which you can slip over your shoes, make all the difference on a chilly ride.

Training tips to consider

Muscles tend to tighten up in the cold weather. D'Angelo recommends stretching before as well as after a workout. Using a foam roller to roll out your muscles helps loosen up the fascia, the layer of tissue between skin and muscle, and has the same effect as a massage.

Respiratory conditions are often exacerbated by the cold. For those who have asthma or have a history of bronchitis, D'Angelo suggests scaling back on training outdoors in the colder months.

Finally, make sure you stay hydrated. "You can perspire just as much in the cold as the heat," D'Angelo says.

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Weight training expands your mind and muscle

A new study showed high intensity weight training improved cognitive function in participants aged 55 to 86. ISTOCK

Australian scientists confirm that weight training is helpful for dementia patients.

It turns out that exercise builds brain as well as brawn. At least that's the case if you're suffering from dementia or mild cognitive decline, which are precursors to Alzheimer's disease.

According to statistics around 135 million people are expected to suffer from dementia by 2050. Researchers at Sydney University, Australia, who recently completed a study confirming that weight training regularly could make people more intelligent, think their discovery could help to build a "healthier ageing population."

The investigation, published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, saw people aged 55 to 86 carrying out exercise and brain training. Results showed that people who were in the high intensity weight training group improved their cognitive function, compared to the group who received the low intensity exercise classes. "The high intensity group also had an increase in a particular part of the brain known as the posterior cingulate gyrus, and area known to be affected by Alzheimer's disease," said lead researcher Dr. Yorgi Mavros. He added: "Our study shows that these responses are mediated by strength gains. What this suggests is that the stronger you get from weight training, the better the benefit for your brain. So to maximize the effectiveness of your weight training program, you need to do it at a high intensity, around 80 percent of your maximum, and frequently, at least twice per week."

However, it still remains unclear whether the study results would apply to people that do not have dementia. Also, researchers have not found out exactly how doing weights makes people smarter. But they hope that more and more people will start doing strength training, because when done properly and under supervision, it is both safe and effective for people of all ages.

"In the future we would like to uncover the mechanism that stimulated the cognitive change," Mavros concluded. "We think whatever is making your muscles bigger and stronger is also having a direct effect on the brain. We don't know what it is yet, but we are looking to find this out. Until then, just remember, it's never too late to start exercising." MWN

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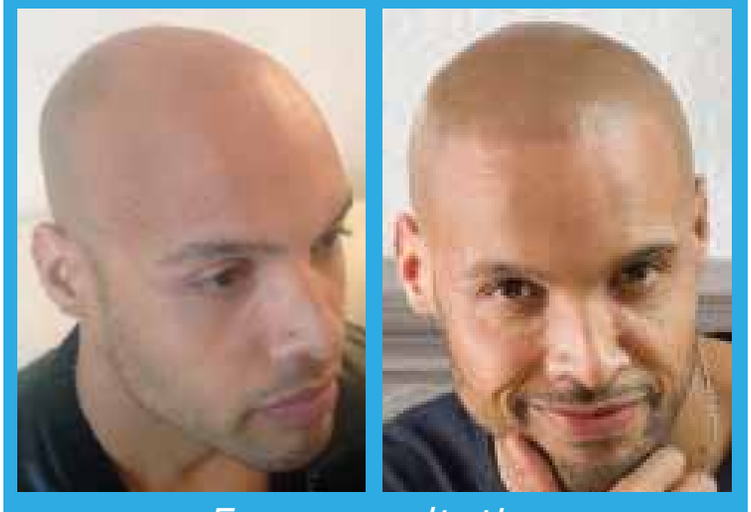

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Knicks a work in progress as new arrivals work to build chemistry

Two games in, the Knicks are still a mystery.

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It's early, and the new-look Knicks don't quite have their look figured out yet. GETTY IMAGES

The season is only two games young, so it should be no surprise that the Knicks are still a work in progress.

They're coming off a stretch where the expected happened — a season-opening loss at defending league champion Cleveland Cavaliers and a home-opening win over the undermanned Memphis Grizzlies. As the season continues, though, look for the Knicks (1-1) to start to gel and really get a grasp of new head coach Jeff Hornacek's program.

But until that time comes, New York will look jumbled and a bit off rhythm at times.

The Knicks faced a hyped Cavs squad that was receiving its rings, and a Grizz team that was without Tony Allen, Brandon Wright, and prized free-agent pickup Chandler Parsons — not to mention point guard Mike Conley, who was on a minutes' restriction. But the Knicks did what they had to do — and should do — whenever they're facing an inferior opponent. This roster is built to challenge the likes of the Cavs, Toronto Raptors, Boston Celtics, and Indiana Pacers. And while they failed their first test against Cleveland, Knicks fans should reasonably admit that this team's chemistry is still under construction.

Derrick Rose, who missed a lot of time during the preseason while in the middle of his sexual assault civil case, admits that his time away threw off any budding team chemistry. He also slightly, if not inadvertently, dissed the triangle following their loss to the Cavs. But when he talks about building that camaraderie and gelling, he's mainly talking about the time lost and the team's ability to get used to one another on the fly.

"They have to get used to how I play," Rose said following Monday's session, adding it's mutual. "And I'm trying to get used to them, too."

Rose's criticism of the triangle is much about nothing, he noted, because it's more about him wanting to highlight his skill set as a traditional pick-and-roll point guard, rather than any uncomfortable moments running the triangle. The difference between the 29-point loss to the Cavs and the opening win at the Garden over the Grizz, though, was a stark contrast in what makes Rose effective.

When Rose worked the pick-and-roll on Saturday in the Memphis game, it was still evident there's much work to get done. A case in point is the mesh between Rose and Kristaps Porzingis. The second-year phenom was open on more than a few occasions on pick-and-rolls and pick-and-pops involving Rose, and was also seen cutting to the basket with very little resistance in front of him, but rarely saw the ball. In fact, in the two games so far, Porzingis has taken just one shot off a Rose pass. This will naturally sort itself out in due time, but it just goes to show that this will be a long process, despite the talented pieces on the floor.

Porzingis himself has noted that patience will be a virtue for everyone, ranging from the fans, to the players, and even himself. Coming off a 21-point performance on Saturday, Porzingis said it'll take some time for everyone to feel comfortable. He even admitted that he's still a work in progress, even after coming off a rookie campaign that had him runner-up in the Rookie of the Year voting.

The Latvian sensation said he and the team are on its way, just give it some time. The Memphis game showed that he's coming along just nicely.

"I wasn't as anxious as I was last year," he said when asked about his maturation process. "I knew I had to calm myself down. I was still hyped. I was ready to go. But I was more relaxed."

The Knicks are slated to go far this season, and at the very least, end its four-year playoff drought. But before they can do all of that, they know the process needs to be trusted and all the moving parts need patience so as to grow and gel.

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METS, CESPEDES SITUATION IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT LOOKS

OPINION

MARC MALUSIS
@marcmalusis

It was no surprise when news came down this week that Mets outfielder Yoenis Cespedes will opt out of the three-year, $75 million dollar contract with the Mets after the World Series. According to his contract, he has three days after the final game of the World Series in order to do so. Both Cespedes and his agent and the Mets looked at his contract as a one-year deal unless something disastrous happened this past season, like an injury. He battled through a pesky quad injury but still hit .280 with 31 home runs and 86 RBI. He did his job and he made $27.5 million in order to do so.

When you take a look at the MLB free agents this offseason, Cespedes is the best offensive bat on the open market. He is 31 years old and in the prime of his career and has shown that he is able to handle the pressure and the expectations of a major market. That is a huge factor that is certainly hard to gauge unless a player has been through it. In 189 games with the Mets in the regular season, Cespedes has 48 home runs with 111 runs scored and 130 RBI. He has been really good and his presence in the lineup has made the job of others hitting in front or behind him a lot easier because they have benefited from seeing better pitches to hit.

Now, there has been a reluctance by the Mets and others to commit to Cespedes long-term. Whether you agree with that or not, that reluctance is real. After all, the market last offseason never developed for Cespedes and there is a real question what the market will be this offseason. The Mets did acquire Jay Bruce from the Reds this past summer and GM Sandy Alderson made it perfectly clear after the acquisition that part of the appeal of Bruce was the control the team had of the player past last season. It is a team option for $13 million with a $1 million buyout should they decide to part ways. He is insurance in case Cespedes is not part of the Mets in 2017.

The problem that Cespedes represents is the headaches that come along with it. You certainly saw some red flags this past year with the golf and his decision not to celebrate with the team after they clinched a Wild Card berth in Philadelphia. Mets fans don't want to hear about the headaches or the moodiness. That is the problem the Mets front office now faces, again. They might be hesitant about giving Cespedes a long-term contract, but they might be faced with no other choice. After all, the window to win is often cloaked in uncertainty. What seemed like a give in oftentimes is not. Who would have ever thought this past season that deGrom, Harvey and Matz would all undergo surgery and would no longer be part of the rotation at the end of the season? Who would have thought that Zack Wheeler would never pitch an inning on the major league level after dealing with setbacks as he tried to come back from Tommy John surgery? The Mets dealt with injury after injury to starting pitchers and position players and still were able to cement a playoff spot, however miniscule the nine extra innings of baseball now feel. They still were able to keep the momentum moving forward.

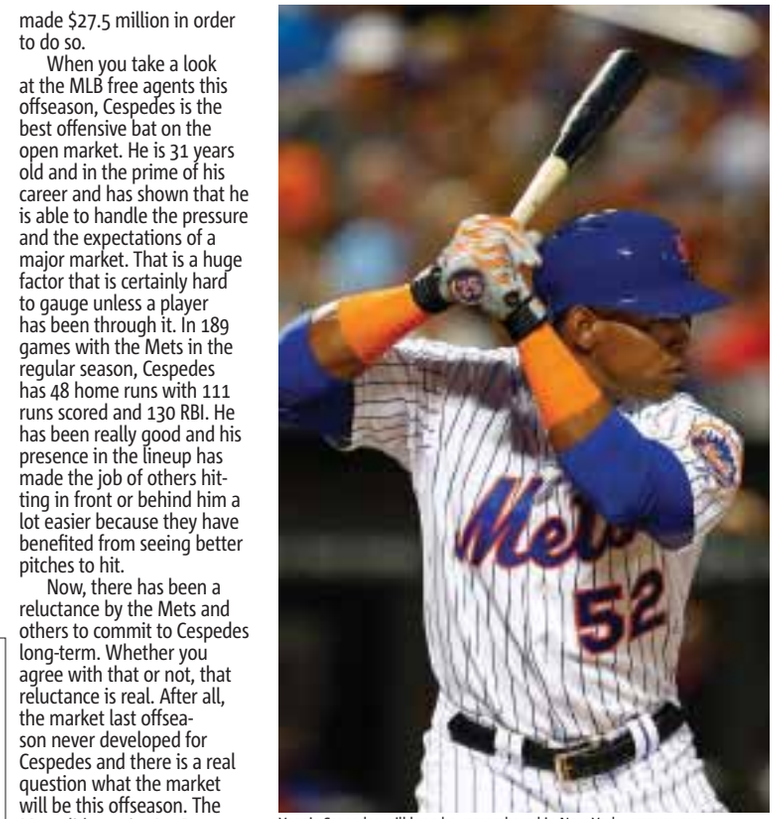
Even with all the questions this team faces this off-season around the diamond, they still look to build upon back-to-back playoff appearances. Can this front office deal with the blowback of letting their best offensive player reside in another city in 2017 and beyond? How will this lineup produce without their most dangerous hitter and the presence of Yoenis Cespedes? Cespedes was not the first choice of Sandy Alderson two summers ago when they acquired him from the Tigers, but he proved to be the right choice. Even with all the baggage that comes along with the player, can the Mets let the big right-handed bat that Cespedes represents leave Citi Field forever?

If the fans had their choice, the answer is clear and resounding. For the Mets, the answer to that question is not as cut and dry.

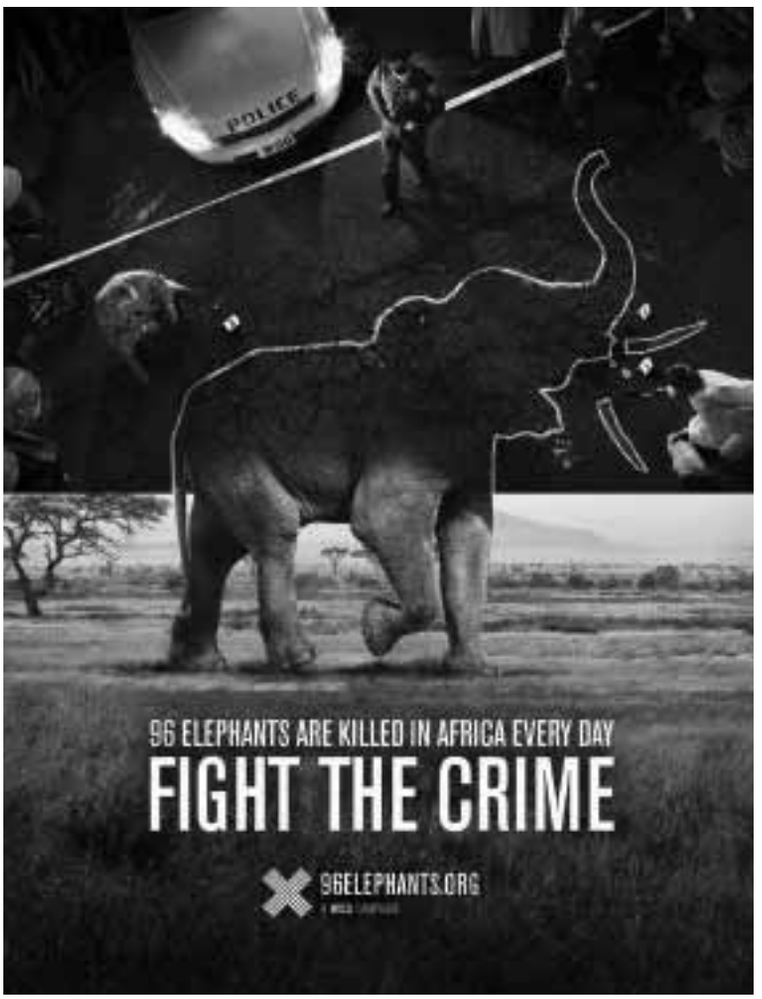
The Mets are a big-market team and should spend like a big-market team, but is the financial investment in Cespedes a smart move long term? The Mets fans don't want to hear about three years from now, after all they have not celebrated a World Series title in 30 years. Their patience is paper-thin.

The more things change, the more things stay the same. It does seem like Groundhog Day, again.

It will be fascinating to see what the Mets next move is. The ball is in their court.



Yoenis Cespedes will long be remembered in New York. GETTY IMAGES



Rangers' Pirri proving to be windfall for team's offense

New York got lucky with a last-minute roster addition this summer.

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Seemingly gradually, the Rangers roster has gotten overhauled in recent seasons. GETTY IMAGES

Nearly two months later, Derek Stepan still couldn't believe what fortune had bestowed up his New York Rangers.

It a few minutes after 10:30 P.M. on the night of Oct. 26 and the Rangers had just completed a thorough 5-2 trouncing of the Boston Bruins, due in no small part to Brandon Pirri's two goals. An unrestricted free agent, Pirri signed a one-year, $1.1 million deal with the Rangers on Aug. 26.

Pirri's first goal against the Bruins put the Rangers ahead 3-2 late in the second period. His second goal, early in the third gave the Rangers a two-goal cushion.

The first of his two goals was a laser from the right circle which cleanly beat Bruins rookie goaltender Zane McIntyre glove side. The second was a jam job from alongside the net.

"You guys can all see he can shoot the puck. He's just got a knack for the net. It's not easy to score goals in this league [and] he seems to be in those areas to score. That's a difficult thing, and to me that's a skill. If you have it, it's special and it's rare," said Stepan, before being asked if he was surprised a player possessing those talents lasted in the free agent market as long as Pirri did.

"I don't really know the story behind [why he hadn't been signed] but I'm glad we're the ones who got him, that's for sure.

Prior to Sunday night's 6-1 win over Tampa Bay, Pirri was tied with rookie Jimmy Vesey and Mats Zuccarello for the team lead in goals with four apiece. As a team, the Rangers' 29 goals were tied for third most in the NHL, and their 3.63 goals for per game was tied with Edmonton for the league lead.

Following a 2015-16 campaign in which the Rangers did not have the requisite overall depth to truly compete for the Stanley Cup, the roster underwent somewhat of a transformation overseen by general manager Jeff Gorton.

Defenseman Dan Boyle retired. The negotiating rights to Keith Yandle were traded to Florida, with whom he subsequently signed. Center Derick Brassard was traded to Ottawa for Mika Zibanejad. 2013 third-round pick Pavel Buchnevich was signed. Kreider, J.T. Miller, Kevin Hayes all signed RFA deals.

While concern remains about the defense corps, upfront the Rangers have quality wingers and centers. As such, jobs were earned and not given by rote. And to hear Pirri, that is a positive.

"Internal competition is a good thing because it drives us each to get better every day," Pirri said. "We are all pulling for each other. At the end of the day it doesn't matter who is playing the minutes as long as the team is winning."

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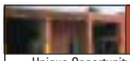

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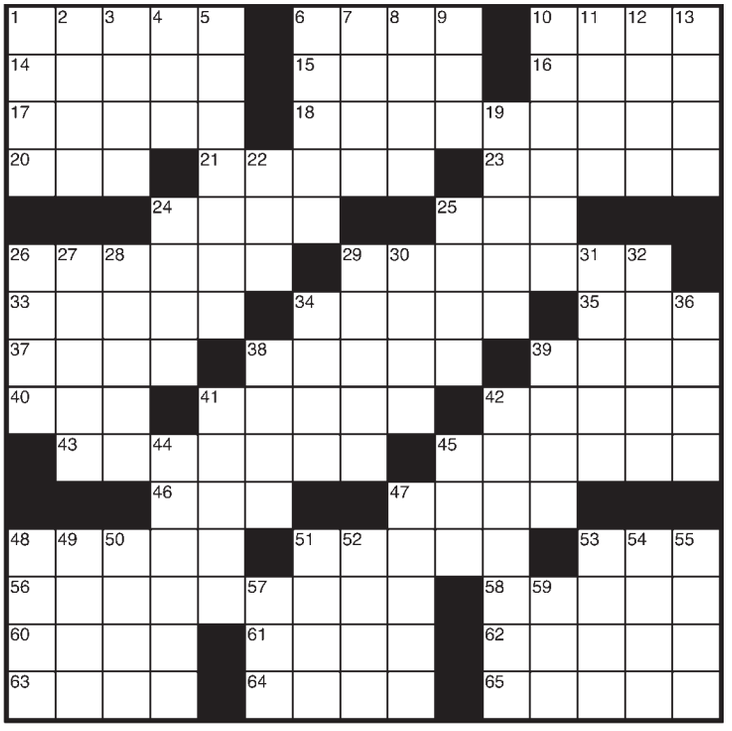
Across
1 Kind of bore
6 Fries or slaw
10 Cracked
14 Old cattle town
15 Psyche's suitor
16 Go it alone
17 Lady's honorific
18 Echo's beloved
20 Coast Guard off.
21 Many-petaled blossom
23 Judges
24 Part of BYOB
25 Burbank's sci.
26 Nanny from abroad (2 wds.)
29 Halts (2 wds.)
33 Diminutive
34 Wind catchers
35 Baton Rouge sch.
37 Take on
38 Make over
39 Galaxy unit
40 Shaggy-haired ox
41 Strides along
42 "Uncle Miltie"
43 Evening serenader
45 Peanut butter choice
46 Make haste
47 Harness piece
48 Curry spice
51 Went undercover
53 Not her
56 Mica
58 Mad Hatter's guest
60 Relate
61 Besides
62 Romeo, to Juliet
63 Whirlpool
64 Envelope abbr.
65 Type of jacket

Down
1 Large volume
2 Statuesque model
3 Pops
4 I knew it!
5 Kerosene, for one (2 wds.)
6 Hombre's honorific
7 Persia, today
8 Boat with oars
9 PC key
10 Net worth
11 Mr. Feliciano
12 School grad
13 Antarctic sea
19 Megastars, to fans
22 U.K. locale
24 Sturdy lock
25 Spouted, as a whale
26 Wan
27 Kayak's kin
28 Goose-down garb
29 Yearned deeply
30 Sporty trucks
31 Infra opposite
32 Choir selection
34 French Legion headgear
36 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
38 Caught the bus
39 Noticed
41 Deceitful
42 Weddings
44 Sparsely
45 Mediocre grade
47 Above the horizon
48 Quote from
49 Pre-owned
50 Serene
51 Margarita rim
52 Attention getter
53 Honey factory
54 Frosted
55 Just
57 Open meadow
59 Ed Asner's -- Grant



metro.us/sudoku

easy

	5				3			
	8				9	2		5
6		9	5	1				
		1			2		8	
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	9		1			3		
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			6				2	

hard

		8		7		2	1	
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			4		7			
	9				3			1
1	4		7				2	
	6		2					7
	7	3		1		6		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Plan a vacation or business trip. Your negotiating skills will help you get what you want. You won't be able to please everyone, but offering incentives will help.

Taurus Keep your motives honest and your plans on track. If you have nothing to hide, you will avoid interference. A partnership will improve if you focus on transparency.

Gemini Trust in yourself. You can present an idea, but don't reveal pertinent information. Stay in control, or someone will take credit for your work.

Cancer An idea or skill you have should be developed further. Something you do for someone you care about will benefit you as well.

Leo Avoid complaints by taking care of your responsibilities. An outing with friends, a networking event, relaxation session or romantic evening looks promising.

Virgo Don't let someone's disgruntled attitude get you down. Do what you can and move on to the people and pastimes that bring you the most satisfaction and joy.

Libra An interesting alternative to how or where you work will get you thinking about making a change. Do your homework before you take a leap of faith.

Scorpio You can lend a helping hand, but don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Gauge your time and delegate responsibility fairly.

Sagittarius Personal changes will make you feel good about your appearance. Your added confidence will result in new opportunities. Make a commitment and celebrate.

Capricorn You'll encounter deception from someone you thought you could trust. Don't share your strategy for success with anyone. Execute your plans secretively. Play to win.

Aquarius Put your best foot forward to be considered for a higher position. If you play your cards right, you could gain added recognition and respect from your peers.

Pisces Stick to the truth. Focus on what you can do for others and the incentives you can offer in order to get something in return.

EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

S	M	O	G		R	O	P	E		O	R	I	O	N
H	E	N	S		U	F	O	S		C	A	N	D	O
E	T	T	A		M	T	N	S		T	R	I	O	S
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A	C	T	E	D		R	E	E	D		L	E	S	E

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